

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4401

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, INT, IS XF

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY DOCUMENT ON POLICY TOWARD OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: TEL AVIV 6475 AND 6518

SUMMARY: LABOR PARTY DOCUMENT, WHEN COMPARED WITH OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SECTION OF LABOR PARTY 1969 PLATFORM, SEEMS TO US TO REFLECT SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION IN ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC TOWARD ISRAEL'S ROLE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WE NOTE IN PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IN CURRENT DOCUMENT ON PURELY ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN TERRITORIES, ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AS BASIS FOR ACTIVITIES, ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND PROVISION FOR PRIVATE LAND PURCHASE AND USE. WHILE SUCH COMPARISON OBVIOUSLY HAS LIMITATIONS AS ANALYTICAL APPROACH, IT TENDS TO CONFIRM IMPRESSION WE HAVE DERIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES (JERUSALEM 877). END SUMMARY

1. COMPARISON OF NEWLY-FORMULATED LABOR PARTY PLATFORM ON TERRITORIES WITH 1969 COUNTERPART PROVIDES INSTRUCTIVE INSIGHT INTO TRENDS IN ISRAELI ATTITUDE AND INTENTIONS. NEW DOCUMENT
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IS OF COURSE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED COMPROMISE, BUT SO WAS 1969

FORMULA, WHICH WAS ALSO WORKED OUT UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM DAYAN.

2. GLANCE AT TWO TEXTS BRINGS TO LIGHT ONE DIFFERENCE. BULK OF 1969 PAPER WAS DEVOTED TO ISRAELI EFFORTS TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF RESIDENTS OF TERRITORIES. THIS IS COVERED THIS YEAR TOO, BUT 1973 DOCUMENT IS OVERWHELMINGLY DEVOTED TO ACTIVITIES OF ISRAELIS IN TERRITORIES. NO DOUBT EACH FOCUSED ON ISSUES THAT WERE UPPERMOST IN POLITICAL DEBATE AT RESPECTIVE TIMES, AND THIS IN ITSELF SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT TREND IN INTERVENING YEARS.

3. WE NOTE, ALSO, ABSENCE IN PRESENT DOCUMENT OF REFERENCE TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, WHICH WERE REPEATEDLY CITED IN 1969 PLATFORM AS REQUIRING HIGH PRIORITY. WORD "SECURITY" DOES NOT EVEN APPEAR IN 1973 DOCUMENT (ONE RATIONALE WHICH IS INCLUDED THIS YEAR IS DEVELOPING TOURISM).

4. IT IS TRUE AS NOTED TEL AVIV 6518 THAT WORDING ON NUMBER KEY POINTS REMAINS VAGUE, BUT 1973 DOCUMENT SPELS OUT SPECIFICS ON MANY MATTERS IN WAY THAT FINDS NOTHING REMOTELY COMPARABLE IN 1969 PLATFORM, E.G. PARA 4 OF SECTION J, SECTION K, MUCH OF SECTION L, SECTIONS N, O, AND P.

5. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE IS ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO INVEST IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (SECTION F, PARA 4 OF SECTION J, SECTION K, PARA 3 OF SECTION L) AND SANCTION, ALBEIT WITH SOME CONTROLS, FOR PURCHASE OF LD BY COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS (PARAS 4, 5, AND 6 OF SECTION L). APPARENT INTENTION TO LEGALIZE PURCHASES ALREADY CONCLUDED ILLEGALLY (PARA 7 SECTION L) AND WHOLE THRUST OF SECTION L ON LAND PURCHASE REINFORCES OUR ASSESSMENT OF DIRECTION OF ISRAELI POLICY AND PRACTICE ON THIS QUESTION CONTAINED JERUSALEM 877.

6. SECTION M ON JERUSALEM DOES NOT PROVIDE SPECIFICALLY FOR EXTENSION OF CITY'S BOUNDARIES, AND MAYOR KOLLEK TOLD CONGEN OFFICER AUG 20 THAT INTENTION IS MERELY TO BUILD AND DEVELOP CERTAIN SURROUNDING AREAS WITHOUT ANNEXING THEM TO CITY. HOWEVER, GROWTH IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY BEYOND CITY LIMITS SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BRING SOME FORM OF

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ANNEXATION ULTIMATELY EVEN IF GOI DOES NOT FOLLOW COURSE OF EXPANDING JERUSALEM. "CONSOLIDATION BEYOND THE ORIGINAL AREA" HAS PERMANENT SOUND EVEN IF OPEN TO VARYING INTERPRETATIONS.

7. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY VIEW THAT REAL TEST WILL BE MANNER OF IMPLEMENTATION. RELEVANT, HOWEVER, IS FACT DAYAN HAS EMPHASIZED VERY POINT THAT WORKING LESS IMPORTANT THAN IMPLEMENTATION. PRESSURE HE AND OTHERS OF LIKE MIND WILL EXERT, COUPLED WITH

SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF SPECIFICITY IN DOCUMENT, LEAD US TO
CONCLUDE MODERATES LIKELY TO HAVR DIFFICULT TIME TRYING TO
SLOW WHAT APPEARS TO BE RISING TIDE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE
IMPRESSED
BY RELATIVE ABSENCE OF COMMENT FROM ISRAELI PUBLIC
ON DOCUMENT WHICH FEW YEARS AGO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LED TO
CONSIDERABLE AGITATED DEBATE. WE SEE THIS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE
OF ACCEPTANCE BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY THAT STEPS OUTLINED
ARE REASONABLE AND LOGICLAL AND AS REFLECTION OF GROWING ATTITUDE
THAT OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE ISRAEL'S TO DO WITH AS IT LIKES.
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